

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 02929 01 OF 02 241219Z
ACTION IO-14

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6383

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 GENEVA 02929

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SNAR, UN
SUBJECT: FIFTH SPECIAL SESSION, COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC
DRUGS: AGENDA ITEM 4 - DRUG ABUSE

1. ITEM WAS DIVIDED INTO TWO SECTIONS BY DECISION OF
THE SECRETARIAT: (A) ASSESSMENT OF THE PROBLEM AND
(B) MEASURES TO REDUCE DEMAND.

(A) ASSESSMENT OF THE PROBLEM: TWENTY-SIX COUNTRIES
AND ORGANIZATIONS SPOKE ON ASSESSMENT SHOWING MORE
GENERAL INTEREST IN THIS TOPIC THAN AT PREVIOUS SESSIONS.
METHODS OF ASSESSMENT NOT DISCUSSED BY MOST DELS.
MAJOR CONCERN WAS NUMBER OF USERS. QUESTIONS OF HEALTH,
SOCIAL AND PERSONAL EFFECTS OF USE PLAYED SECONDARY
ROLE. DISCUSSIONS OF TOBACCO AND ALCOHOL CONTINUE TO
APPEAR IN MANY STATEMENTS.

(1) HEROIN USE REPORTED AS INCREASING IN ITALY,
BELGIUM AND IRAN. FRG REPORTED HIGH PURITY, LOW COST
HEROIN WIDELY AVAILABLE BUT "HARDLY A CHANGE IN THE
DRUG SITUATION SINCE THE LAST SESSION" OF THE CND. THE
NEWLY ELECTED RAPPORTEUR, DR. SCHRODER (FRG), REPORTED
380 DRUG RELATED DEATHS IN 1977 COMPARED TO 338 IN 1976.
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PAGE 02 GENEVA 02929 01 OF 02 241219Z

SPAIN ALSO NOTED AN INCREASE IN DEATHS WITHOUT REPORTING
STATISTICS. FRANCE CLAIMED THAT THE REPORTED ADDICT
FIGURE OF 100,000 IS EXAGGERATED. "30,000 HARD CORE
USERS IS A BETTER ESTIMATE."

(2) AN ESSENTIALLY STABLE OR UNCHANGED PATTERN OF
ABUSE WAS REPORTED BY FRANCE, CUBA, GDR, USSR, HUNGARY,

YUGOSLAVIA, UK, EGYPT, KENYA, AND HONG KONG.

(3) ABOUT FIFTEEN OF THE COUNTRIES REPORTED CONTINUING INCREASES IN CANNABIS, PSYCHOTROPIC, AND MIXED ABUSE, ESTABLISHING THIS AS THE SINGLE MOST CONSISTENT PATTERN REPORTED AT THIS SESSION. CANNABIS DECRIMINALIZATION ISSUE NOT DISCUSSED UNDER THIS ITEM AS IN PAST.

(4) WHO (HUGHES) REPORTED NEW TREND OF COCA PASTE SMOKING IN ANDEAN COUNTRIES WHICH IT DESCRIBED AS RAPIDLY SPREADING EPIDEMIC AMONG URBAN YOUTH. SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES INCLUDING ANXIETY, PARANOIA, AND INCREASED CRIMINAL INVOLVEMENT FOUND ESPECIALLY AMONG SUPPLIERS- USERS. OF LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES, ONLY PANAMA AND CUBA SPOKE ON ASSESSMENT.

(5) US STATEMENT (DU PONT) ON ASSESSMENT HIGHLIGHTED INCREASED USE OF CANNABIS, COCAINE, AND PHENCYCLIDINE WHILE PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH HEROIN, PRESCRIPTION SLEEPING PILLS AND LSD HAVE SHOWN MODEST DECLINES. NATIONAL INSTITUTE ON DRUG ABUSE PUBLICATIONS PROVED USEFUL TO USDEL. USSR (SVIRIDOV) REQUESTED ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON DRUGS AND CRIME.

(B) MEASURES TO REDUCE DEMAND: TWENTY-SIX COUNTRIES UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 GENEVA 02929 01 OF 02 241219Z

AND ORGANIZATIONS ALSO ADDRESSED THIS TOPIC, INDICATING SHARP INCREASE IN INTEREST. DND (KILIBARDA) INTRODUCED TOPIC BY DESCRIBING PROGRESS ON RESOURCE BOOK ON MEASURES TO REDUCE DEMAND AND THE SURVEY OF NATIONAL PROGRAMS. MAIN TRENDS AND DEVELOPMENTS ARE SUMMARIZED IN E/CN 7/608.

(1) MAJOR TREND OBSERVED IS DEFINITE INCREASE IN INTEREST IN AND USE OF PREVENTION AND EDUCATION. ARGENTINA, INDONESIA, FRANCE, ITALY, THAILAND, SWEDEN, UK, MADAGASCAR DESCRIBED SPECIFIC APPROACHES: HEALTH EDUCATION, MASS MEDIA, SMALL GROUP, COMMUNITY BASED AND PEER ORIENTED PROGRAMS. UK (DE DENEY) DESCRIBED WHITE PAPER ON SUBJECT ENTITLED "PREVENTION AND HEALTH." UNESCO (FREDRICH) WELCOMED THIS EMPHASIS AND INDICATED THEY COULD ASSIST COUNTRIES IN DESIGNING PROGRAMS OR MAKING DECISIONS RE POLICY. LEAGUE OF ARAB STATES (EL-HADEKA) RECOMMENDED COORDINATED PREVENTION CAMPAIGN, WITH ONE MONTH PER YEAR DESIGNATED AS DRUG CAMPAIGN MONTH BY ALL COUNTRIES AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.

(2) INCREASED INTEREST MANIFESTED IN TREATMENT

AND REHABILITATION WITH ALMOST ALL INTERVENTIONS ADDRESSING SOME ASPECT OF THESE TOPICS. IRAN, SWEDEN, HONG KONG, USA STATEMENTS PARTICULARLY STRESSED TREATMENT, ESPECIALLY OUTPATIENT METHODS. FEWER THAN HALF OF THE STATEMENTS RECOGNIZED THE NEED FOR MORE DEVELOPMENT OF AFTER CARE, COMMUNITY BASED PROGRAMS AND FOLLOW UP APPROACHES TO OBTAIN MAXIMUM RESULTS.

(3) USA (DU PONT) VIEWS WARMLY RECEIVED. STATEMENT WAS BRIEF OVERVIEW OF PROBLEMS CAUSED BY DRUGS AND THE TREATMENT NETWORK AND RESOURCES EMPLOYED IN THE US FEDERAL-STATE PARTNERSHIP. COPIES OF STATEMENT REQUESTED

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 02929 02 OF 02 241223Z
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UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 GENEVA 02929

BY MORE THAN FIFTEEN MEMBERS. ATTENTION WAS FOCUSED ON PSYCHOTROPICS, WITH WARNING ON PHENCYCLIDINE AND DISCUSSION OF SEDATIVE HYPNOTIC DRUGS. NIDA PUBLICATIONS WELL RECEIVED.

(4) USSR (BABAIA) GAVE HIS MOST EXTENSIVE STATEMENT TO DATE ON ABUSE. AFTER A LENGTHY DESCRIPTION OF WIDE-SPREAD ABUSE OF CANNABIS, OPIUM AND COCAINE BEFORE THE SOVIET REVOLUTION, HE REPEATED THE CLAIM THAT IMPROVED SOCIAL CONDITIONS (INCREASES IN LITERACY, HEALTH AND CULTURAL AREAS) WIPED OUT DRUG ABUSE. "NOT A SINGLE CASE OF HEROIN ADDICTION NOW EXISTS." FOR THE FIRST TIME HE DIRECTLY ADMITTED THERE ARE A "CERTAIN NUMBER OF CANNABIS USERS" ALTHOUGH HE HAD NO FIGURES. HE RELATED THAT ALL ABUSERS ARE TREATED ON A VOLUNTARY BASIS, BUT IF PERSONS REFUSE ASSISTANCE, THE LAW REQUIRES COMPULSORY TREATMENT. HE CRITICIZED PHARMACOLOGICAL DETERMINATIONS OF ABUSE LIABILITY SAYING THAT "THERE MUST BE SOCIAL CIRCUMSTANCES OF ABUSE FOR A DRUG TO BE A NARCOTIC." HE AGAIN CLAIMED THAT ALCOHOL AND TOBACCO

ABUSE ARE IMPROPER TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION AT THE CND SINCE "THEY HAVE NOTHING IN COMMON WITH ADDICTS." IN THE USSR, A STANDING-COMMITTEE ON NARCOTICS CONTROL COORDINATES THE WORK OF THE EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS. BABAIAH DISCUSSED CAUSES, TREATMENT METHODS AND TRAINING UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 GENEVA 02929 02 OF 02 241223Z

IN A SURPRISINGLY LENGTHY STATEMENT ON THESE TOPICS. DEPENDENCE AND EXPERIMENTATION WITH DRUGS WERE ATTRIBUTED TO CURIOSITY. HE MENTIONED ACUUNCTURE, COMBINED METHODS FOR TREATING VARIOUS CONDITIONS (E.G., INSOMNIA) AND PHYSIOTHERAPEUTIC METHODS AS IMPORTANT MEASURES OF TREATMENT. THE NEED FOR THE TREATMENT STAFF TO HAVE POSITIVE ATTITUDES AND TRAINING OF STAFF SPECIALISTS CALLED "PSYCHIATRIC NARCOLOGISTS" WAS STRESSED. NONE OF THIS KIND OF DISCUSSION AND INTEREST WAS EXPRESSED OVER THE LAST SIX SESSIONS OF THE CND BY THE USSR. BABAIAH MADE NO MENTION, EITHER FORMALLY OR INFORMALLY, OF BROADER ISSUES IN THE TREATMENT OR RELATED HEALTH FIELDS (E.G., PSYCHOSURGERY, USE OF DRUGS FOR POLITICAL REASONS, CONFLICTS AMONG SOVIET AND WESTERN PSYCHIATRIC COMMUNITIES).

(5) SWEDEN AND IRAN EMERGED AS OBVIOUS LEADERS IN THE DEMAND REDUCTION AREA, BOTH REGIONALLY AND WORLD WIDE. BOTH HAVE WIDE EXPERIENCE AND ARE RESPECTED IN FIELDS OF ASSESSMENT, RESEARCH, TREATMENT AND PREVENTION. WITH COMPLETELY DIFFERENT KINDS OF DRUG PROBLEMS AND SOCIAL POLICY RESPONSES TO ABUSE, THEY HAVE STRONG POTENTIAL FOR ASSISTING US IN EUROPEAN, MIDDLE EASTERN AND OTHER DRUG CONTROL PROGRAMS. VANDEN HEUVEL

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